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THE RECORD.

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THURSDAY, DECEMBER 15, 1910.

Entered at the Greenville, Ky., postoffice as second-class matter.

We have the greatest country, and the census returns to prove it, 51,973,266.

KENTUCKY stands fourteenth in population among the states, a drop of two points in the last decade.

HON. C. C. McCHORD was appointed as a member of the interstate commerce commission Monday, and his work on our state board, as well as his legal ability and splendid executive qualities, will make him a valuable member of this important body.

WHEN GROVER Cleveland ignored party lines and appointed men to important positions strictly on a qualification basis, his party berated him. Now that President Taft has done the same thing, it will remain to be seen whether people have grown more liberal and just.

The good old fashions, the simple manners of our fathers are passing. The habits which made them distinguished for simplicity, even in a democracy, are no longer good enough for their sons and daughters. Ceremony is now the rule, and instead of a knife, fork and spoon, a complex and effete society has loaded the dining table with a collection of tools which resembles a silversmith's window at holiday times. To add to this luxury, a St. Louis man has invented a "noiseless soup spoon." The bowl of the spoon is fitted with a fixed lid which covers half of it, the half nearest the user. A small slit allows the liquid to pass silently into the diner's mouth, thus eliminating the noise which has heretofore annoyed supersensitive ears. A certain American philosopher has declared that it was one of his chief pleasures to go to places where he could hear the rich eat. It seems that even this is to be denied us.

The goods for Christmas are at Joe Morgan's store. Call and get them.

You do not lift the world by rolling up your eyes.

You possess only as much faith as you possess you.

Messrs. Porter & Fulkerson have opened a restaurant in the Lam building, and invite the patronage of the public.

You cannot love truth and fight freedom in thinking.

The big fences are not always around the best fruit trees.

Miss Lena Arnold has fitted up a clothes pressing shop on the second floor of the Greenville Coal Co. building, and has engaged a good man to do the work. She solicits club members, also transient trade, and guarantees satisfaction.

It takes more than a stinging vocabulary to make a prophet.

Who borrow trouble always find it when they get.

For sale—Square place, in Greenville. Apply to Mrs. J. W. Vauzberg, Phone No. 216-2 Central City.

EPHRIAM McLEAN BRANK

By OTTO A. ROBERT

During the War of 1812 three companies were formed in Muhlenberg county. They consisted of citizens of Muhlenberg, McLean and Ohio counties. Two were organized by Alney McLean and one by Lewis Kincheloe. Every officer and private was a great credit to his company, but none proved more of a hero than did Capt. Ephriam McLean Brank of Greenville.

E. M. Brank was a lieutenant in the company formed in November, 1814, by Alney McLean and which a few weeks later took part in the last battle in the second war with England.

The story of Capt. Brank's heroic act in the Battle of New Orleans, on January 8, 1815, is one of the most thrilling incidents enacted by any Muhlenberg man. Under the head of Muhlenberg county, Collins, in his History of Kentucky, published in 1875, says: "E. M. Brank, (still living, 1871,) while the battle (of New Orleans) was raging hottest mounted the breastworks to repel the British."

To his family and intimate friends the Captain often described, in a most realistic manner, the part he played in this battle, and their descendants still tell, each in his own way, the story of Capt. Brank on the breastworks.

Capt. Brank's own version of the incident, altho' never written, was in nearly all details, it is said, the same as the one given by "a British officer" who took part in the battle and which is here quoted. I have not been able to learn the name of this literary officer. His interesting description was quoted by Walter Walcott in "The Republic," of Boston, as early as 1832 and later also republished, but slightly modified, by various Kentucky papers, clippings of which are still preserved in the Brank family.

This description of Capt. Brank's heroic act is quoted in McElroy's "Kentucky in the Nation's History," (published in 1909) where, as far as I am aware, it appears, not only for the first time in a printed book, but in a volume that is probably the most interestingly written history of the State.

McElroy's foot note following the quotation, page 365, reads: This manuscript is marked, "Kentucky Riflemen in the Battle of New Orleans," Durretts' Collection. The hero here described was E. M. Brank of Greenville.

By way of introduction McElroy says: "The effect produced upon the British army by the daring conduct of a single Kentucky rifleman is thus graphically described by one of the British officers who took part in the historic engagement." He then quotes:

"We marched in solid column in a direct line, upon the American defenses. I belonged to the staff, and as we advanced, we watched through our glasses, the position of the enemy, with what intensity an officer only feels when marching into the jaws of death. It was a strange sight, that breastwork, with a crowd of beings behind, their heads only visible above the line of defense. We could see their long rifles lying on the works, and the batteries in our front, with their great mouths gaping toward us.

We could also see the position of General Jackson, with his staff around him. But what attracted our attention most, was the figure of a tall man standing on the breastwork, dressed in linen-woolsey, with buckskin leggings, and a broad-brimmed felt hat that fell around the face, almost concealing the features. He was standing in one of those picturesque graceful attitudes peculiar to those natural men dwelling in forests. The body rested on the left leg, and swayed with a curved line upward. The right arm was extended, the hand grasping the rifle near the muzzle, the butt of which rested near the toe of his right foot. With the left hand he raised the rim of the hat from his eyes, and seemed gazing intently on our advancing column. The cannon of the enemy had opened on us, and tore through our works with dreadful slaughter; but we continued to advance, unwavering and cool, as if nothing threatened our progress.

The roar of cannon had no effect upon the figure before us; he seemed fixed and motionless as a statue. At last he moved, threw back his hat rim over the crown with his left hand, raised the rifle to the shoulder, and took aim at our group.

Our eyes were riveted upon him; at whom had he leveled his piece? But the distance was so great, that we looked at each other and smiled. We saw the flash, and very rightly conjectured that his aim was in the direction of our party. My right hand companion, as noble a fellow as ever rode at the head of a regiment, fell from his saddle.

The hunter paused a few moments, without moving his gun from his shoulder. Then he reloaded and assumed his former attitude. Throwing the hat-rim over his eyes and again holding it up with the left hand, he fixed his piercing gaze upon us, as if hunting out another victim.

Once more the hat rim was thrown back, and the gun raised to his shoulder. This time we did not smile, but cast glances at each other, to see which of us must die.

When again the rifle flashed, another one of our party dropped to the earth. There was something most awful in this marching on to certain death. The cannon and thousands of musket balls playing upon our ranks, we cared not for, for there was a chance of escaping them. Most of us had walked so coolly upon batteries more destructive, without quailing, but to know that every time that rifle was leveled toward us, and its bullet sprang from the barrel, one of us must surely fall, to see it rest, motionless as if poised on a rock, and know, when the hammer came down, that the messenger of death drove unerringly to its goal, to know this, and still march on, was awful. I could see nothing but the tall figure standing on the breastwork; he seemed to grow, phantom like, higher and higher, assuming, through the smoke, the supernatural appearance of some great spirit of death.

Again did he reload and discharge, and reload and discharge his rifle, with the same unflinching aim, and the same unflinching result; and it was with indescribable pleasure that I beheld, as we neared the American lines, the sulphurous cloud gathering around us, and shutting that spectacular hunter from our gaze.

We lost the battle; and to my mind, the Kentucky rifleman contributed more to our defeat than anything else; for while he remained in our sight our attention was drawn from our duties, and when, at last, he became ensnared in the smoke, the work was complete; we were in utter confusion, and unable, in the extremity, to restore order sufficient to make any successful attack. The battle was lost.

Ephriam M. Brank came to Muhlenberg about 1808. He was a lawyer by profession, but devoted most of his time to surveying. He lived in Greenville on Main street, a half mile north of the Court House. Altho' his later years were spent in farming, he, nevertheless, continued to take a great interest in the progress of the town.

Capt. Brank was a man of stately proportions and wonderful physical constitution. He was a "crack shot" and an enthusiastic hunter; a well read man, resolute and systematic. He was kind to all and loved by everybody.

Capt. Ephriam McLean Brank was born in North Carolina on August 1, 1791, and died in Greenville, August 5, 1875. He was a son of Robert Brank and Margaret (McLean) Brank who was a daughter of Ephriam McLean and Bettie (Davidson) McLean. Capt. Brank's wife, Mary (Campbell) Brank, was a daughter of Capt. William Campbell and Tabitha (Russell) Campbell, the founders of Greenville. Mrs. Brank was born March 27, 1791, and died in Greenville, December 4, 1850.

Five children were born to Capt. and Mrs. E. M. Brank:

1. Louise, who married James M. Taylor. They had no children.
2. Tabitha, the second wife of Dr. Wm. H. Yost. They had no children.
3. Samuel C. who died in childhood.
4. Rev. Robert G., of St. Louis, who married Ruth A. Smith and to whom were born four children: Sarah W. the wife of Rev. Thomas Cummins; Ephriam McLean; Rev. Rockwell S. and Robert C.
5. Mary Jane, who was the first wife of Dr. Wm. H. Yost and to whom were born three children: 1. Mary W. Yost the first wife of Dr. Thomas J. Slaton. (Their children are Dr. Henry Y. and Dr. Brank Slaton of Greenville.) 2. Judge Wm. H. Yost who married Lizzie Reno. (Their living children are Dr. E. R. Yost of Greenville and Mary Brank Yost, the wife of Rev. W. H. Fulton.) 3. Dr. E. B. Yost who married Bertha Grimes. They had no children.

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The whirlwind of passion scatters many of the seeds of sin.

A collapsible conscience may be more comfortable than an ingrowing one, but it works as much harm.

Save your home by having your flues repaired. Barkley Bros. do this work in best manner.

The eagles are more likely to be counting beads of perspiration than drops of tears.

Get potted plants and cut flowers from Miss Lena Arnold.

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The Youth's Companion Calendar For 1911.

The publishers of The Youth's Companion will, as always at this season, present to every subscriber whose subscription (\$1.75) is paid for 1911 a beautiful Calendar for the new year. The picture panel reproduces a water-color painting of an old-time garden in a flood of summer sunshine, with a background of Lombardy poplars through which one catches a glimpse of distant hills. The picture being in 12 colors, the tones of the original are faithfully reproduced.

Your clothing cleaned, pressed, repaired and dyed at Ford Bros.

Burr Grist Mill.

My new burr grist mill is in operation; call on your merchants for White Flint meal. Also ready to furnish the public with chicken feed and chopped corn.

Jl 28 J. A. SHAVER.

See Coombs & Co. before you sell your beef hides. 0 27

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